



Educational Topic

Physical Science Technician

Related Job Titles:

Biological technician, chemical technician, environmental technician, engineering technician

Job Description:

Technicians help scientists and engineers with their products and experiments. They set up and run laboratory instruments. When there are problems with the instruments, technicians fix them. They also check and track experiments, make observations of the experiments, record results and often make conclusions. Technicians gather data from various sources such as field notes, design books and lab reports, look at the data and report any errors or data that don't fit with the rest. Science technicians usually work regular hours and, depending on their area of study, may work in a laboratory or outdoors. They spend a lot of time on the computer.

Interests / Abilities:

- Are you good at solving problems?
- Do you like to use computers?
- Do you express yourself well when you speak and write?
- Do you work well with others?
- Do you like to do science experiments?

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Science (with laboratory activities)
- Math
- Computers

Education / Training Needed:

At least two years of specialized training in science or science-related technology is required to be a technician. This training may be earned at a technical institute, vocational school or from a community college or junior college or from work experience. It is helpful to have some experience from internships or summer jobs in laboratories.

Areas of expertise:

- *Biology*: assist scientists in studying living things, viruses, microbes, DNA
- *Chemistry*: assist scientists to develop, use and study chemicals
- *Engineering*: assist scientists and engineers with instruments

Additional Resources:

- **NASA Office of Space Science**
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oss/>
- **NASA Quest**
<http://quest.nasa.gov>
- **American Chemical Society**
<http://www.acs.org>
- **Jobs with the Federal Government**
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>
- **Student Educational Employment Programs**
http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm
- **NASA Jobs**
<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>
- **NASA Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP)**
<http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/>

What can I do right now?

- Take as many math and science classes as you can.
- Participate in science fair projects.
- Visit Astro-Venture regularly to participate in chats and activities.
<http://astroventure.arc.nasa.gov>
- Call the American Association of Science and Technology Centers for information on science museums in your area that you might visit.
(202) 783-7200

- Please take a moment to evaluate this product at:
• http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational_topic
• Your evaluation and suggestions are vital to continually improving NASA educational materials.
• Thank you.



<http://quest.nasa.gov/people/index.html>

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